

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
Division of Criminal Justice

CRJ 001
Intro to Criminal Justice & Society
Office: 213 Alpine Hall
Voicemail: (916) 278-6505

Professor K. Richards-Ekeh
Spring - 2009
Office Hours: T,Th 11:00-12:30 pm
E-mail: Via SacCT

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A. Catalogue

The course reviews the problem of crime and the societal response to criminals. Institutions discussed are those intended to discover the crime and the criminal and those designed to deal with the criminal, the victim, and society, once the criminal has been labeled. Finally, the bureaucracy of crime and its measurement as a social phenomenon are discussed.

B. Instructor

This course is intended to provide students with an introduction to criminal jurisprudence, a review of crime and the societal response to criminals, through the application and integration of emerging multimedia instructional technology, such as the Internet. Current and contemporary issues in Criminal justice will be explored and examined, as well as the philosophy, operating procedures, organizational structure and the process of agencies involved in the criminal justice system, utilizing information accessed through the Internet. Those agencies designed to deal with the criminal, the victim, and the society once the criminal has been labeled, as well as their interrelatedness will be the focus of this course. Finally; homework and in-class assignments will provide the student with an opportunity to learn how to apply this technology and to analyze historical and philosophical trends within the criminal justice system, with special attention to its emergence as a formal system of social control.

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

This course introduces the criminal justice process and the relationships among the various components of the justice system. It reviews the problem of crime and the societal response to criminals. The student will learn how the U.S. criminal justice system attempts to control and prevent crime while dealing with accused criminals in ways that are just. Students will understand the U.S. criminal justice process is an institutional system made up of people, politics, organizations and procedures that interact in a dynamic way. Students will understand the relationships among criminals, victims and the justice system and the contributions of women and persons from various ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

- A. Students will be able to present an overview of the criminal justice process. They will understand and be able to discuss crime control and due process as well as the distinctions between criminology and criminal justice.
- B. Students will explain crime within causal theories and systems of classification.

- C. Students will explain the major sources and limitations of crime data, the emerging patterns of criminal activity and the costs of crime including the research methods, theories and concepts associated with each.
- D. Students will be able to discuss the sources of modern law as well as the types of laws, the key principles of the fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth and fourteenth Amendments as they relate to arrest; search, seizure, interrogation, bail and the legal impact upon police.
- E. Students will be able to discuss the bureaucracy of crime, the history and structure of policing and police management, the history and activities of the courts and court officers, and topics related to sentencing, probation, parole, prisons and jails.
- F. Students will be able to explain the diversity in human society and the contributions and perspectives of women and persons from various ethnic and socioeconomic groups regarding the justice system.

This course is intended to provide the student with an opportunity to better understand both crime and criminal justice, and the emerging technology that is changing how it is practiced. Critical thinking will be stimulated by engaging in discussions, both in-class and "on-line" about contemporary issues and inquiry into policy issues facing the criminal justice system. It is also designed to enable the student to review the historical development of social control systems in the United States; to understand the emergence of the rule of law and its ultimate conflict with individual rights in a democratic society; to critically examine the underlying premises upon which the criminal justice has been built; and to review the roles and goals of the various agencies involved in the criminal justice system.

III. METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

Lectures, films, video-tapes, computer-based modules for interactive decision-making, guest speakers, discussions, role play and library research will be employed with a shared responsibility between the instructor and the student.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- A. Each student is expected to have an appropriate email account (either Saclink or some other appropriate Internet Service Provider) and access to the Internet in order to complete assignments. Saclink accounts may be established by following the instructions contained in the University Computing and Communications Services document entitled "Getting Started with Saclink," which may be obtained at the User Services Counter, SCI 322 (Science Building). There will be five (5) examinations per semester, worth 65% of the total grade. The number of exams will facilitate prompt and direct feedback regarding how well you are dealing with the course materials. Quizzes will be given and will be worth 10% of the total grade. Multiple choice questions and electronic answer sheets will be used. Students are expected to bring Scantron #4521 and a #2 pencil to each examination.

- B. Make-up Exams are not given. Assignment grades are on individual merit, not on class curve. The examinations will be made up of objective questions with specific point assignments per question.
- C. In response to a requirement established by the campus Academic Senate, this course will ask students to give evidence of composition skill by completing a written project. Criteria for this assignment include: a) clarity; b) organization; c) writing ability and mastery of the English grammar and language; and d) a determination regarding whether or not basic criminal justice concepts have been examined and understood.

V. REQUIRED READINGS:

Frank Schmalleger, *Criminal Justice Today: An Introductory Text For the 21st Century*, 9th or 10th Edition, Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc. 2008

VI. ASSIGNMENTS:

Readings are to be done for the assigned week prior to the beginning of the first class of that week.

Course Evaluation:

Exams - 60%

Exam 1 (Chap. 1-4) Feb. 24, 2009

Exam 2 (Policing chapters) March 24, 2009

Exam 3 (Court/Sentencing) April. 28, 2009

Exam 4 (Prisons and Jails and Juvenile Justice) May. 21, 2009

Interview Essay May 5, 2009 - 20%

Quizzes, Assignments, Attendance & Participation 20%

Grading will be based on the absolute scale (no curves). Final grade in the course will be based on the following breakdown:

A = 90 - 100 (A-, A)

B = 80 - 89 (B+ B-)

C = 70 - 79 (C+ C-)

D = 60- 69 (D)

F = below 59

EXAMS:

NO MAKE-UP EXAM WILL BE GIVEN. MISSING AN EXAM RESULTS IN 0 POINTS

Exams are scheduled for SacCT. Should there be a problem and there needs to be a change, the exam will be administered in paper form. In that case, you will need the **BLUE Scantron # 4521** for in-class (or in lab) objective type test consisting of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and/or true and false questions compiled from ALL sources including guest speakers, video clips, and films.

Students, who must sit an exam at the testing centre, are required to make arrangements with the testing centre, and inform the instructor of those arrangements in time for the examination to be in place.

Interview Project: 20% Due: May 5, 2009
(1500 words or maximum 5 pages). Late papers will NOT be accepted

For this project, which should conform to essay requirements, you are required to choose a job in the criminal justice system, interview someone who currently works in that job and write an essay based on the interview information. You **MUST** reflect on and integrate information from the text book, lectures, guest speakers, documentaries or media representations. While not limited to, you **MUST** include the following information:

- A description of the typical duties of someone in that job
- The training and experience necessary to obtain that position
- The areas where persons in that position typically exercise discretion, examples of how they exercise that discretion, and why
- The main legislation or statute(s) that created or currently regulates that position
- Ways in which the constitution affects that position, with examples
- Any other information that interests you or arise from the interview.
- Information such as the textbook, pamphlets or other sources of information must be referenced.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

All assignments should be handed in by the deadlines.

CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance will be taken each class meeting. Your absence will be excused if you e-mail SacCT or phone (916- 278-6505) no later than the day of the class and indicate you will not be present. There is no penalty for excused absences unless it becomes excessive. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a reduction of one point for each unexcused absence subtracted from your examination score.

Handwritten assignments will not be accepted, consequently, ALL Projects **MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN** using a minimum 10 points and 1 ½ line spacing. You are encouraged to make contact with the English Writing Center, Calaveras Hall 128 for help with your written work.

Weekly Reading Outline

Text support: mycrimekit.com or cjtoday.com

This outline sets out the required readings for each meeting. Seminars will include short lectures, small group discussions with the class as a whole. Please come prepared to discuss the readings and please let me know if you wish to discuss a specific area. If after reading the chapter you are unable to answer the chapter objectives, I recommend that you re-read the chapter.

Week	Topic	Readings	Questions/Activities
2/3 - 5	What is crime? Types of crimes The crime problem today	Schmallenger Chapter 1 & 2	<p>Chapter Objectives: What you should learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain what crime statistics can tell us about crime 2. Discuss some of the limitations inherent in statistical reports of crime. 3. List the major crimes that make up the crime index. 4. Explain why crime statistics are generally expressed as rates instead of simple numerical tabulations. 5. Explain the hierarchy rule, and discuss how it affects crime reporting. 6. Discuss the meaning of the term clearance rate. 7. Identify the special categories of crime discussed in this chapter. <p>Assignment 1 Pick a newspaper that interests you. You could use a campus newspaper, a local city newspaper, or a national newspaper like USA Today. Most newspapers post articles on the WWW. if you have trouble finding a newspaper on the WWW, try locating one using the News Central website at http://www.all-links.com/newscentral/. Collect 10 crime articles from your newspaper. Read the articles you have collected, and then answer the following questions.</p> <p>What types of crime are presented in the news? What characteristics of crime victims are presented in the news? What characteristics of defendants are presented in the news? Compare what you have discovered with the statistical information discussed in Chapter 2. Does the newspaper provide an accurate picture of crime in society?</p> <p>TV frequently presents crime and justice related programs. List at least 3 TV programs that depict subcomponents of the criminal justice system. Are the images portrayed positive or negative? Do you think the images represented are fair and/or accurate? Compare the TV images with the newspaper images from the above assignment. Prepare a maximum of 1 page for in-class discussion: (submit after class discussion for credit)</p>
2/10-12	Causes of crime Classic and positivist theories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological • Psychological • Sociological 	Chapter 3	<p>Chapter Objectives: What you should learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List the various categories of theoretical approaches used to explain crime. 2. Describe the basic features of biological theories of crime causation. 3. Describe the basic features of psychological explanations for crime. 4. Describe the basic features of sociological theories of crime causation. 5. Identify two emergent theories of crime causation. <p>Assignment 2 - Discussion After reading Chapter 3, write ONE paragraph discussing which theory of crime causation makes the most sense to you. The paragraph should give a brief summary of the theory, including the name of the theorist (or one of the theorists in that tradition). Remember to provide citation for your work. (submit after class discussion for credit.)</p>

2/17-19	Understanding criminal law and the criminal justice system Race, gender, & crime	Chapter 4	Chapter Objectives: What you should learn <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the impact of common law on contemporary American criminal justice. 2. Discuss the nature of the rule of law, and describe its purpose in Western democracies. 3. Identify the various types of law, and explain the purpose of each. 4. List five categories of criminal law violations. 5. List the eight general features of crime. 6. Explain the concept of <i>corpus delicti</i>. 7. Discuss the four broad categories of defenses that our legal system recognizes. 8. Explain the legal concept of insanity, and distinguish it from psychiatric explanations of mental illness. 9. Name at least five new and emerging innovative criminal defenses. 10. Distinguish between explaining a behavior and excusing it for purposes of the law.
2/24	Exam 1	Chapters 1-4	Chapter quizzes due.
3/3	Policing	Chapter 5-6	Chapter Objectives: What you should learn <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the basic purposes of policing in democratic societies. 2. Identify the three styles of policing, and discuss differences in these approaches. 3. Describe community policing, and explain how it differs from traditional policing. 4. Explain what a learning organization is, and describe how some police departments can benefit from becoming learning organizations. 5. Describe the nature of scientific police management, and explain the significance that scientific studies hold for law enforcement practice today. 6. Identify factors that influence an individual police officer's use of discretion. <p>Assignment 3: Discretion What factors influence an individual police officer's use of discretion? Do you think police officers exercise too much discretion in the performance of their duties? Explain. If you think it would be desirable to limit discretion, how would you do it?</p>
3/10-12	Policing cont.	Chapter 7-8	Chapter Objectives: What you should learn <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the police working personality, and relate it to police culture. 2. List and describe different types of police corruption, and discuss methods for building police integrity. 3. Explain the dangers of police work, and discuss what can be done to reduce those dangers. 4. Describe the civil liability issues associated with policing, including racially-biased policing. 5. Describe efforts to enhance police professionalism. 6. Discuss ethnic and gender diversity in policing today. 7. Describe the nature and extent of private protective services in the United States today, and describe the role these services might play in the future. 8. Explain the relationship between private security and public policing.
3/17-19	Policing cont.	Chapter 7-8 cont.	Continuation of 3/3-12 discussion.
3 / 24	Exam 2	Chapter 5-8	Chapter quizzes due

4 / 7 - 9	Court	Chapter 9	<p>Chapter Objectives: What you should learn</p> <p>Identify and explain the roles of the various professional members of the courtroom workgroup.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss indigent defense, and know what forms it takes. 2. Identify and explain the roles of the various non-professional courtroom participants. 3. Explain how professional and non-professional courtroom participants work together to bring most criminal trials to a successful close. 4. Explain the roles of expert and lay witnesses in a criminal trial, and describe how their testimony might differ. 5. Describe the various stages in a criminal trial. 6. Explain the hearsay rule, and identify recognized exceptions to it. 7. Explain the possible benefits of a professional jury system. 8. Describe methods that have been suggested for improving the adjudication process.
4/14 - 16	Court cont.	Chapter 9	Cont.
4/21	Pre-Trial	Chapter 10	<p>Chapter Objectives: What you should learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List and explain the steps typically taken during pre-trial activities. 2. Explain pre-trial release, and describe the kinds of defendants that might be best qualified for release. 3. Describe plea bargaining, and explain what purpose it might serve in the system of justice. <p>In-class exercise: Plea bargaining role play</p>
4/23	Sentencing Issues	Chapter 11	<p>Chapter Objectives: What you should learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the five goals of contemporary criminal sentencing. 2. Illustrate the difference between indeterminate and structured sentencing. 3. Describe the different types of structured sentencing models in use today. 4. Define mandatory sentencing, and explain how it came about. 5. Describe truth in sentencing. 6. Explain the importance of federal sentencing guidelines. 7. Describe the nature and importance of the presentence investigation report. 8. Describe the history of victims' rights and services, and discuss the growing role of the victim in criminal justice proceedings today. 9. List the four traditional sentencing options. 10. Outline the arguments for and against the death penalty. <p>Assignment 4 : Sentencing exercise</p>
4/28	Exam 3	Chapter 9-11	Chapter quizzes due
5/5	Probation, Parole, and Community Corrections	Chapter 12	<p>Chapter Objectives: What you should learn</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the differences between probation and parole, and describe the advantages and disadvantages of each. 2. Describe in detail the legal environment surrounding the use of probation and parole, including the names of significant court cases. 3. Describe the federal probation system. 4. Explain the nature of the job of probation and parole officers. 5. List the advantages of intermediate sanctions over more traditional forms of sentencing. 6. Describe the likely future of probation and parole.

5/7	Prisons and Jails	Chapter 13 See also info/statistics online for the California Dept. of Corrections, other states, and Federal Bureau of Prisons Video and Discussion of “Maximum Insecurity”	Chapter Objectives: What you should learn <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the major characteristics and purposes of today’s prisons. 2. Describe the prison population (federal and state). 3. Describe the “just desserts” model, and explain how it has led to an increased use of imprisonment and prison overcrowding. 4. Discuss how changes in the rate of criminal offending relate to changes in rate of imprisonment. 5. Explain the role that jails play in corrections, and discuss the issues that jail administrators currently face. 6. Describe the trend toward privatization in the corrections field. 7. Describe gender, class, and racial issues relating to prison populations. Interview Essay Due: May 5, 2009
5/12	Prison Life	Chapter 14	Chapter Objectives: What you should learn <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the realities of prison life and subculture from the inmates’ point of view. 2. Explain the concept of prisonization. 3. Describe the realities of prison life from the correctional officers’ point of view. 4. Describe the causes of riots, and list the stages through which prison riots progress. 5. Describe the major problems and issues facing prisons today. <u>Assignment 5 - The Rich Get Richer & the Poor Get Prison</u>
5/14	Juvenile Justice Issues	Chapter 15	Chapter Objectives: What you should learn <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the history and evolution of the juvenile justice system in the Western world. 2. List and define the categories of children in today’s juvenile justice system. 3. Describe the nature of the problems that juveniles face in the United States today. 4. Name the important U.S. Supreme Court decisions of relevance to juvenile justice, and describe their effects on the handling of juveniles by the system. 5. Explain the similarities and differences between the juvenile and adult systems of justice.
5/21	Exam 4	Chapter 12-15,	<u>Chapter Quizzes due</u>
5/21	Final Exam – Exam 4	Chapters: 12 - 15	